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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

GE.99-10398 (E)

Reply received from the Islamic Republic of Iran

[27 December 1998]
[Original: English]

1. "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in the necessity of the development and enhancement of friendly relations among nations, and the achievement of cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social or political character, as stressed in the Charter of the United Nations, and therefore considers the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures as a matter that contravenes the principle of the non-extraterritoriality of domestic law, infringes State sovereignty and violates the right of people to self-determination and the right to development which is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. Iran thus highly appreciates the continued consideration of this subject by the General Assembly, as well as by the Commission on Human Rights.

2. "The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights called upon States to refrain from any unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States and impede the full realization of human rights. Five years have elapsed since the achievement of that common commitment and the international community has not yet witnessed considerable progress in limiting and repealing such measures. Regretfully, international economic relations records indicate no sign of improvement in this area. Despite the recommendations adopted on this issue by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter of the United Nations, unilateral coercive measures of certain countries against other sovereign States continue to hamper free and natural economic and trade relations internationally, with all their extraterritorial effects, inter alia, on the economic and social development of targeted countries.

3. "Application of unilateral coercive measures not only is, by itself, a violation of human rights and undermines the enjoyment by people of the targeted States of their fundamental rights, but also increases the problems of those States in fulfilling their commitments under international human rights instruments. Cognizant of the fact that the implementation of treaty obligations is a multi-dimensional issue depending on the role played by both national and international actors, international confrontations can lead to the deterioration of human rights standards in the concerned countries, whereas international cooperation amongst nations can contribute to the improvement and promotion of human rights. This is specially true for economic and social rights, as well as collective rights.

4. "In examining the periodic reports of States parties on the implementation of the various human rights instruments, the respective treaty bodies should consider all the national and international factors and assess their impact on the implementation of treaty obligations in those States.

5. "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that international monetary, economic and trade organizations, namely the Bretton Woods institutions, shoulder a grave responsibility in this matter and they can and should seek, find and apply ways and means to limit and dissuade any country from resorting to unilateral coercive measures.

6. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a targeted country of such measures for almost 20 years. Some unilateral coercive measures applied against Iran, as well as their adverse economic and social effects on the Iranian people, are reflected in the report (A/53/293) submitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled 'Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms'.

7. "In its report to the General Assembly, the Islamic Republic of Iran enumerated several unilateral coercive measures taken by the United States of America, inter alia the enactment and implementation of the 'Iran and Lybia Sanctions Act of 1996 (D'Amato Act)'. In the period after that the United States of America not only have not taken any steps to repeal or invalidate such laws and measures, but also continued their hostile and arbitrary policy towards the Iranian nation.

8. "The unilateral coercive attitude, policy and measures of the United States should be stopped expeditiously by the collective efforts of all States and international organizations. Several relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and other international bodies must enforce by appropriate follow-up arrangements through which different obstacles impeding the eradication of the unilateral coercive measures are identified and effectively obviated.

9. "Denouncing once again the promulgation of any unilateral coercive measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights to continue the consideration of this issue in a more effective and practical manner, with the view to its prompt and full eradication."